

Report of Professor A. Edwin Wells, Supervisor of the U. S. Navy Training School at Lowell Textile Institute, Lowell, Mass.

Training of enlisted men in uniform, members of the U. S. Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and Army began on March 29, 1943, and terminated on May 31, 1944. Twenty-three schools averaging about twenty-eight men per school were given intensive training in mathematics, electricity, special electrical machinery, and electronics, for an important gun of the Navy. These men were in class 48 hours per week. An unusual feature of the program was the fact that three schools, spaced two weeks apart, were always in training. Every two weeks a new school was started. Thus the three schools were always separated two weeks in their training, which required a very complicated hour plan.

The preparation of an hour plan involved sixty hours on the part of three who were expert in this work. All classes, class rooms, and instructor hours, as well as subjects, had to be properly interlocked. Members of the Yankee networks, and other staff members, all had regular occupational hours for their companies, which had to be avoided in preparing the hour plan. The hour plan was usually made up over a weekend, those working on it going practically without sleep until it was completed.

Equipment had to be obtained. Altho the highest priority was available, apparatus was scarce. Hence trips were made to Manchester, Portland, and Bath as well as to other small towns literally to dig up equipment not to be had in metropolitan areas. Some equipment was obtained by us as far away as the Pacific coast. Secret equipment was carefully studied and experiments originated by us for laboratory instruction. Special equipment was invented, designed, and built at Lowell Textile Institute for this training school.

The supervisor was assisted by three Chief Petty Officers, one pharmacist mate, two office technicians, full-time maintenance man, and a teaching staff of seventeen men. The office force utilized all available time of our Lowell Textile Institute office members. The ship's store, small stores, infirmary, hospitalization, and complete health program were in our charge. In fact, this school comprised a complete Navy outpost station.

Six hundred and forty-three men from all parts of the United States were trained in this program which was centered solely at the Lowell Textile Institute. Books were awarded for honor students in each school. Special ribbons were awarded to honor sections in athletics. Outside games were arranged for the Navy teams. The administration involved endless detail. Classes were in session from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Instructors gave most sacrificially of their time. In fact, some of them became ill, and required leave of absence while others doubled up for them. Only the fact that it was an important war effort kept us at it during the final few weeks.

All officials should be proud of this vital contribution made by the Lowell Textile Institute. It is of lasting benefit. Many men took copies of our catalogues. Others have signified intentions to return after the war. Our laboratories have benefited by additional equipment which regular students are now using.

Grateful appreciation is extended to all who made this program possible.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Edwin Wells

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Supervisor

September 25, 1944.

To the President and the Trustees of the Lowell Textile Institute, Lowell, Mass.:

Report of Progress, ESMWT Program, by the
Institutional Representative, Professor A. Edwin Wells

When the President and the Trustees requested me to take over this program, I did so with considerable reluctance. The program was about three years old, summer was approaching, and a tremendous amount of organizing and cultivation of the territory involved, loomed ahead. It seemed that it might be possible to get this ground-work done during the summer and perhaps have one or two courses started late in the season. Such, however, was not the case. Because of cooperation all along the line, a real program has developed.

Two lengthy conferences were held at the State House. Present were Paul W. Foster, Chairman, Commission on Administration and Finance; Julius E. Warren, Commissioner of Education; George H. Varney, Business Agent, Department of Education; Dean William C. White, Northeastern University, Regional ESMWT Advisor; Professor George H. Meserve, ESMWT Field Representative; Harold W. Leitch, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Lowell Textile Institute; Charles H. Eames, President, Lowell Textile Institute; and Professor A. Edwin Wells, Institutional Representative, Lowell Textile Institute. These conferences resulted in establishing the method of clearing contracts and proposals between the Lowell Textile Institute, the State House, and the U. S. Office of Education in Washington.

One single-page flier listing courses as authorized by Washington was printed. An announcement of electronic courses appeared in papers. From then on, requests came in for information and courses. In fact, steady requests have come thru publicity by friends of our Institute and as yet, the Institutional Representative has had no opportunity to make a real survey or reach outward into new industries to publicize our program because we are now temporarily at saturation point with respect to instructor availability.

In analyzing the results to date, it must be kept in mind that these are college level courses, designed primarily for war workers in critical industries and specifically for each industry's need after consultation with its executives. It requires about twenty-four hours to plan a course, set up contracts, get signatures, and complete one course in readiness for the opening session.

A brief analysis involving the activities of the Institutional Representative to date follows:

- 28 conferences, totalling 48 hours exclusive of travel time
- 36 top executives interviewed
- 25 out-of-town trips made
- 13 industries personally contacted; several industries contacted by assistant course supervisors

In every case it is worthy of note that expressions of goodwill and appreciation of Lowell Textile Institute and President Eames for past contributions in training and educating for the industry were generously given.

- 9 courses were created for immediate service
- 1 was cancelled because of the excessive heat on opening sessions
- 1 is postponed until a later date
- 7 courses are in operation - 3 at Lowell Textile Institute for greater-Lowell industries; 4 in other cities

Thirteen Lowell Textile Institute staff, 9 outside staff, 5 office force, and the Institutional Representative conduct the program.

The following is an analysis by industries:

Total number of companies served	35
Number of textile companies	8
Number of electrical and communication companies	20
Number of miscellaneous	7
Total enrollment	123
Men 103	Women 20

Attached hereto is a general list of industries served.

Courses pending:

- 5 "must" courses, providing advanced training for present sections involving 94 trainees
- 6 new courses for approximately 75 trainees

The great amount of administrative detail involving the numerous roll-calls, report forms, transportation reports, payrolls, and the many reports to Washington can well be imagined.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Commissioners, Business Agent, President Eames, the Trustees, Dean White, and Professor Meserve for the complete cooperation which is making this program possible. Also I must express my grateful appreciation to our Registrar, Miss Ruth Foote, for her untiring efforts in connection with the mass of office details from registrations to payrolls, which must be carefully organized and executed.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Edwin Wells

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Institutional Representative

September 25, 1944.

General List of Industries Served, ESMWT Program

American Woolen Co.	N. E. Tel. & Tel.
Arlington Mills	Pacific Mills
B & M Railroad	Post Engineers, Fort Devens
Boston Navy Yard	Pratt & Forest
Derby Electric Company	Raytheon Mfg. Co.
Gaumont Bros.	J. M. Richards Co.
³ Div. General Electric Co.	Sylvania Electric
Gilet Carbonizing Co.	Tewksbury State Hospital and Infirmary
Greenville Mills	Textron, Inc.
J. Livingston Co.	Tucke & Parker Co.
J. A. Lorrain	Tyer Rubber Co.
City of Lowell	Veterans Administration
Lowell Electric Light Corp.	White Electric Service & Motors
M.I.T. Radiation Lab.	WLLH
F. P. McCartin Co.	
McDonagh Electric	
Merrimac Broadcasting Co.	
Middlesex Electrical Supply Co.	
Nashua Gummed & Coated Paper Co.	